

REMARKS

The amendment provided herein places claim 7 in independent form, by incorporating therein the language of parent claim 4. It is noted that the language deleted from the last two lines of claim 4 (lines 18-19) is also deleted from the language inserted into claim 7. The feature recited therein is believed not to add to patentability of the claim.

In the parent application hereof, claim 7 had been rejected only under 35 USC 112 ¶2, and not over prior art. The present amendment addresses the question raised by the Examiner in the parent application with respect to claim 7. It is accordingly submitted that, upon amendment of claim 7 and placing the claim in independent form, the claim is placed in condition for allowance.

The present amendment further incorporates the limitations of claim 2 in independent claims 1 and 4, and incorporates the language of claim 9 in independent claim 8. It is accordingly believed that, in addition to any arguments for patentability of claims 1, 4 and 8 provided in the parent application hereof, the claims are *a fortiori* patentable as amended herein.

It is courteously submitted that the recitation of claim 2, as incorporated in the independent claims, defines a manner of processing a multiple mapping in which a destination channel, or program, to which an original channel (or program) is mapped, is further mapped to a third channel.

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This is illustrated in Fig. 7 wherein, for example, program P j-2 is mapped to P l-2 during a period from 7:00 to 9:00, while program P l-2 is mapped to P 4-3 during a period from 8:35 to 8:50.

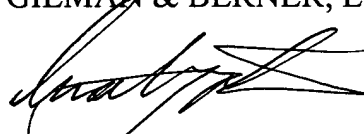
Such multiple mapping is not disclosed in the Arsenault et al. reference applied in the parent application. To the contrary, the '995 reference does not even disclose a mapping from one existing program to another existing program (or programs), as shown by arrows in Fig. 7.

The '995 reference can do, through a two-stage mapping (the remote map and the local map) is to restore the original channels, such as out_1 through out_n shown in Fig. 4, and to create additional channels, such as out_{n+1} through out_{n+2} .

The reference does not support the substitution of a program, or the substitution of a channel, for a period of time, which is a significant feature of applicants' invention.

Entry and consideration of the foregoing prior to examination is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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